

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3444
INFO AMCONSUL LENI GRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7026

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: VIKTOR FAYRMARK

REF: MOSCOW 5842, MOSCOW 5201,

1. FAYRMARK IS STILL IN PRISON AND IS BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO. JEWISH SOURCES REPORT THAT THE MANSLAUGHTER CHARGES THAT WERE THE SUBJECT OF THE INVESTIATION WILL BE DROPPED. INSTEAD, HE WILL PROBABLY BE CHARGED WITH PETTY THEFT AND POSSESSIN OF SECRET AND ANTI-SOVIET DOCUMENTS. THESE CHARGES CARRY MAXIMUM SENTENCES OF SIX MONTHS AND THREE YEARS RESPECTIELY. THEY ARISE FROM MATERIAL CONFISCATED FROM FAYRMARK'S APARTMENT DURING A POLICE SEARCH IN EARY APRIL. THE DOCUMENTS IN QUESTION ARE SAMIZDAT AND WESTERN EDITIONS OF BANNED BOOKS, AND THE PETTY THEFT CONCERNS EATING UTENSILS ALLEGEDLY STOLEN FROM A MOSCOW HOTEL.

2. FAYRMARK'S COMPANION IN THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO HIS ARREST, MIJHAIL GORELIK, WAS CALLED IN FOR POLICE INTERROGATION ABOUT TWO WEEK AGO. HE WAS TOLD THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO REOPEN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT (IN WHICH A MAN DIED DURING AN ARGUMENT) WITH A VIEW TO CHARGING HIM, GORELIK, WITH INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER. CURIOUSLY, HOWEVER, GORELIK WAS THEN RELEASED AND IS STILL AT LIBERTY.

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3. JEWISH DISSIDENT CIRCLES FEEL THAT THE DECISION TO PROCEED AGAINST GORELIK WITH THE MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE RESULTS FROM A DECISION TO IMPRISON BOTH MEN. NOW THAT THEY HAVE THE MATERIAL FOR A DIFFERENT CHARGE AGAINST FAYRMAK, THE POLICE CAN USE THE MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE AGAINST GORELIK. FAYRMARK WAS THE PRIORITY TARGET BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN FAR MORE ACTIVE IN DISSIDENT AFFAIRS THAN GORELIK, BUT THE AUTHORITIES ARE PRESUMABLY PLEASED TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO INCARCERATE BOTH. OUR SOURCES COMMENT THAT THE DECISION TO LEAVE GORELIK AT LIBERTY MAY BE A PLOY TO PRESSURE HIM INTO TESTIFYING AGAINST FAYRMARK.

4. COMMENT: IF THE AUTHORITIES ARE INDEED TRYING TO TURN GORELIK INTO A PROVACATEUR, THEY MIGHT SUCCEED; HE IS REPUTED TO BE A GOOD DEAL LESS TOUGH AND MORE EASILY INTIMIDATED THAN FAYRMARK.
STOESSEL

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